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## NOTES AND LITERATURE.

### ZOÖLOGY.

**McMurrich's Human Embryology.**<sup>1</sup> — In 1902, Dr. McMurrich published an excellent handbook of human embryology, well adapted to the needs of students of medicine, and it is a matter of gratification to others than the author that its sales have been such as to demand a second edition. In the preparation of the new edition, the author has revised the whole, changing the wording here and there, replacing some cuts and adding two others, while in parts the text has been re-written so as to incorporate the results of later investigations. Thus he has added Conklin's explanation of inversion of right and left sides; the account of the fate of the somatic layer of the myotome is changed, and with it in other parts modifications in the account of the derma, and in the idea of a segmentation in the skin. There is added an account of the chorionic vessels, and a statement as to the origin of the decidual cells; the account of the heart muscles has been changed, as has that of the histogenesis of striped muscle, and Minot's work on the sinusoids has been incorporated in the text.

There are very considerable changes in the account of the arteries of the trunk and umbilicus; the section on the metanephros has been re-written, the account of the lymph nodes has been changed, as has that of the relations of the corpus callosum and the fornix. There are also modifications in the statements regarding the endolymph ducts and the formation of the vitreous body. The most extensive and important changes, however, are in those parts which relate to the musculature of the limbs, where the author has revised the matter in the light of his own researches.

Dr. McMurrich has embraced the opportunity to add slightly (24 titles) to the bibliographies and to correct various typographical and other errors; but as Huxley wrote Foster (*Life*, vol. 2, p. 65), we

<sup>1</sup> McMurrich, J. Playfair. *The Development of the Human Body. A manual of human embryology.* Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1904. 2d ed., 8vo, pp. xix + 17-539, 272 text figs. \$3.00.

wish he would "get rid of that terrible word 'urinogenital.'" On page 190 the suprasternal bones are spoken of as cartilaginous in origin, and are also regarded as representing the episternum of the lower vertebrates, but the episternum is membranous in origin. On page 202 there is a confusion in relation to the maxillary bones and "their cartilaginous representatives" in the lower vertebrates. The printing of the new edition is an improvement on the first, especially that of the cuts. We commend the work in the highest terms as a clear, accurate, and modern account of the development of man.

J. S. K.

**The Arthropods and Cœlenterates of the Maldive and Laccadive Archipelagoes.**<sup>1</sup>—In this part of this work are five articles dealing with certain groups of Arthropods and Cœlenterates and a notice of two parasitic worms. Professor S. J. Hickson treats of the Gorgonacea and certain other Alcyonarians. Thirteen species of Gorgoniids are enumerated, of which six are regarded as new, all coming from water of thirty fathoms or less in depth. A single species of Pennatula was found and a new species of Eunepthya is described. Mr. Borrodaile deals with the twenty-three species of hydroids collected, eight of them being new. Lictorella shows some interesting features, there being, besides the normal hydrotheca, others nearly four times as large, each with a hydranth at the bottom. These are regarded by Borrodaile as gonothecæ, although no gonophores were found, and on this account he would not agree with some authorities in uniting Lictorella with Lafœa, since in the former there would not be any Coppinia condition. Synthecium also presents some problems for solution. An interesting habitat is recorded for an unidentified species of Campanularia. It occurred attached to the body of a sea snake. Borrodaile recalls in this connection a similar association of a species of Stylactis with a fish but has overlooked Fewkes' *Hydrichthys mirus* which occurred on a teleost on the south coast of New England.

The hermit crabs are discussed by Major Alcock, who enumerates twenty-six species, of which four are new. The shrimps of the family Alpheidæ were especially numerous, and H. Coutière enumerates seventy-six species belonging to the group, a large proportion of these being regarded as new. Twenty species of Hemiptera are

<sup>1</sup> Gardiner, J. S., ed. *The Fauna and Geography of the Maldive and Laccadive Archipelagoes*. Cambridge Univ. Press, Engl., 1905. Vol. 2, pt. 4, pp. 807-921, pls. 67-87, text figs.